

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus ~~for the optical fiber fusion-splicer~~ in which positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers can be automatically controlled by capturing and processing image data of the optical fibers photo-taken by television cameras ~~from plural directions~~, comprising:

an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras and capable of capturing and image-processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;

and wherein

said image capturing means has two or more different capturing modes regarding the capturing of the image data, and said capturing modes can automatically be switched in synchronous with or independently from progress of the image processing to position the optical axes and end faces of optical fibers.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus in which positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers can be automatically controlled by capturing and processing image data of the optical fibers photo-taken by television cameras, comprising:~~

~~an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras and capable of capturing and image-processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;~~

~~and wherein~~

~~said image capturing means has two or more different capturing modes regarding the capturing of the image data, and said capturing modes can automatically be~~

~~switched in synchronous with or independently from progress of the image processing to position the optical axes and end faces of optical fibers, and said~~

The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the capturing modes of said image capturing means include at least two of a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from frame to frame and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from frame to frame, a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from field to field and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from field to field and a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from pixel to pixel and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from pixel to pixel.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus in which positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers can be automatically controlled by capturing and processing image data of the optical fibers photo taken by television cameras, comprising:~~

~~an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras and capable of capturing and image processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;~~

~~and wherein~~

~~said image capturing means has two or more different capturing modes regarding the capturing of the image data, and said capturing modes can automatically be switched in synchronous with or independently from progress of the image processing to position the optical axes and end faces of optical fibers, and said~~

The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the capturing means has a capturing mode in which a field of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided field to capture the image data of the plural television cameras into one field in a multiplexing form.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus in which positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers can be automatically controlled by capturing and processing image data of the optical fibers photo-taken by television cameras, comprising:~~

~~an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras and capable of capturing and image processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;~~

~~and wherein~~

~~said image capturing means has two or more different capturing modes regarding the capturing of the image data, and said capturing modes can automatically be switched in synchronous with or independently from progress of the image processing to position the optical axes and end faces of optical fibers, and said capturing modes of said image capturing means include at least two of a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from frame to frame and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from frame to frame, a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from field to field and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from field to field and a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from pixel to pixel and the~~

~~image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from pixel to pixel and has a~~

The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the capturing mode in which a field of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided field to capture the image data of the plural television cameras into one field in a multiplexing form.

5. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus for the optical fiber fusion-splicer in which positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers can be automatically controlled by capturing and processing image data of the optical fibers photo-taken by television cameras from plural directions, comprising:

an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras and capable of capturing and image-processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;

and wherein

said image capturing means has two or more different capturing modes regarding the capturing of the image data, and said capturing modes can automatically be switched in synchronous with or independently from progress of the image processing to position the optical axes and end faces of optical fibers, and said capturing means has a capturing mode in which one scanning line of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided scanning line to capture the image data of the plural television cameras onto one scanning line in a multiplexing form.

6. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus in which positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers can be automatically

controlled by capturing and processing image data of the optical fibers photo taken by television cameras, comprising:

an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras and capable of capturing and image processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;

and wherein

said image capturing means has two or more different capturing modes regarding the capturing of the image data, and said capturing modes can automatically be switched in synchronous with or independently from progress of the image processing to position the optical axes and end faces of optical fibers, and said

The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the  
capturing modes of said image capturing means include at least two of a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from frame to frame and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from frame to frame, a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from field to field and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from field to field and a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from pixel to pixel and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from pixel to pixel and has a capturing mode in which one scanning line of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided scanning line to capture the image data of the plural television cameras onto one scanning line in a multiplexing form.

7. - 25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the capturing means has a capturing mode in which a field of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided field to capture the image data of the plural television cameras into one field in a multiplexing form.

27. (New) The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the capturing mode in which a field of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided field to capture the image data of the plural television cameras into one field in a multiplexing form.